

CLAIMS

Claims 1-21 (Cancelled)

22.(Previously Presented) A method of communication between an IP phone and a network-implemented PBX

comprising:

generating a message to be exchanged between said IP phone and said PBX;

encapsulating said message with a Protocol Header and an IP Message body, wherein

the Protocol Header includes an indication of Protocol Type for denoting whether the message is an IP message or an encapsulated non- IP message, a Device Number for denoting by means of MAC (Media Access Control) an address within said PBX to which said message is to be transmitted or from which said message is to be received, and Message Type for identifying the type of message contained in the IP Message Body; and,

transmitting the encapsulated message.

23.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said message is a Device Registration request, and further comprising transmitting the Device Registration request from said IP Phone to said PBX responsive to one of either a power-up or a resetting of said IP phone.

24.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising generating, encapsulating and transmitting a Device Registration request Acknowledgment message from said PBX to said IP phone.

25.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising generating, encapsulating and transmitting a Device De-Registration Request message from said IP phone to said PBX.

26.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising generating, encapsulating and transmitting a Device De-Registration Acknowledgment message from said PBX to said IP phone.

27.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said message is a Device ICMP Echo (ping) request, and further comprising transmitting the Device ICMP Echo (ping) request from said PBX to said to said IP Phone for testing for the presence of said IP phone.

28.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising generating, encapsulating and transmitting a device ICMP Echo (Ping) results message from said IP phone to the PBX.

29.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising generating, encapsulating and transmitting a device tone generation request message from said PBX to said IP phone responsive to registration of said IP phone with said PBX and said IP phone going off-hook.

30.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising generating, encapsulating and transmitting a Remove Tone device tone generation request message from said PBX to said IP phone.

31.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising generating, encapsulating and transmitting an Open Receive Stream Request from said PBX to said IP phone for establishing an audio path from said PBX to said IP phone.

32.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising generating, encapsulating and transmitting an Open Receive Stream Acknowledgement from said IP Phone to said PBX.

33.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising generating, encapsulating and transmitting a Close Receive Stream Request from the PBX to the IP Phone.

34.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, further comprising generating, encapsulating and transmitting a Close Receive Stream Acknowledgement from the IP Phone to the PBX.

35.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, further comprising generating, encapsulating and transmitting an Open Transmit Stream Request from said PBX to said IP phone for establishing an audio path from said IP phone to said PBX.

36.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising generating, encapsulating and transmitting an Open Transmit Stream Acknowledgement from the IP Phone to said PBX.

37.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising generating, encapsulating and transmitting a Close Transmit Stream Request from the PBX to the IP phone.

38.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, further comprising generating, encapsulating and transmitting a Close Transmit Stream Acknowledgement from the IP phone to the PBX

39.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said message is a Device IP address update request message, and further comprising transmitting the Device IP address request from said PBX to said IP phone for initiating update of any change in IP address of said IP phone.

40.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising generating, encapsulating and transmitting a Device IP address update acknowledgement from the IP phone to said PBX.

41.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said message is a legacy call control message.